



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 516**

January Session, 2013

Substitute House Bill No. 6655

*House of Representatives, April 15, 2013*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10a-156a of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [Each] (a) Not later than October 1, 2013, each constituent unit of the  
4 state system of higher education and each independent [college or  
5 university] institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-37,  
6 as amended by this act, shall submit [a plan described in this section to  
7 the Department of Higher Education by January 1, 2009] an up-to-date  
8 security protocol plan to the Department of Emergency Services and  
9 Public Protection. Such plan shall identify procedures specifically  
10 designed to heighten awareness by all faculty and staff regarding  
11 potentially at-risk students and other individuals on campus through  
12 effective educational strategies. Such procedures shall be designed to  
13 educate faculty and staff on how to recognize and respond to students  
14 and such other individuals who may be at risk of harm to themselves

15 or others. Not later than July 1, 2015, and biennially thereafter, each  
16 constituent unit and independent institution of higher education shall  
17 review the security protocol plan with each of its chiefs of police or  
18 heads of campus security to determine whether such plan adequately  
19 addresses campus security concerns or requires revisions. In the event  
20 that revisions are required, the constituent unit or independent  
21 institution of higher education making revisions shall submit a revised  
22 security protocol plan to the Department of Emergency Services and  
23 Public Protection not later than August first of the year in which  
24 revisions are deemed necessary.

25 (b) Not later than January 1, 2014, each constituent unit and  
26 independent institution of higher education shall establish a trained  
27 threat assessment team for each of its campuses. The threat assessment  
28 team shall consist of individuals selected by the president of each state  
29 college, regional community-technical college or independent  
30 institution of higher education in consultation with its chief of police or  
31 head of campus security and may include not less than one member of  
32 its special police force or campus security personnel, administration,  
33 faculty and senior and mid-level staff. The chief of police or head of  
34 campus security at each state college, regional community-technical  
35 college and independent institution of higher education shall be  
36 responsible for ensuring that every member of the threat assessment  
37 team (1) is capable of executing the security protocol plan developed in  
38 accordance with subsection (a) of this section, and (2) receives  
39 comprehensive training in identifying potentially at-risk students,  
40 other potentially at-risk individuals on campus and any other potential  
41 threats to campus safety.

42 Sec. 2. Section 10a-142 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

44 (a) There are established special police forces for The University of  
45 Connecticut at Storrs and its several campuses, The University of  
46 Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, Central Connecticut State  
47 University in New Britain, Southern Connecticut State University in

48 New Haven, Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic and  
49 Western Connecticut State University in Danbury. The members of  
50 each special police force shall have the same duties, responsibilities  
51 and authority under sections 7-281, 14-8, 54-1f and 54-33a and title 53a  
52 as members of a duly organized local police department. The  
53 jurisdiction of said special police forces shall extend to the  
54 geographical limits of the property owned or under the control of the  
55 above institutions, and to property occupied by The University of  
56 Connecticut in the town of Mansfield, except as provided in subsection  
57 (b) of section 7-277a.

58 (b) Members of said special police forces shall continue to be state  
59 employees and, except as provided in subsection (e) of this section,  
60 shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 67, and parts III and IV of  
61 this chapter. The provisions of part V of chapter 104 and section 7-433c  
62 shall not apply to such members.

63 (c) Said special police forces shall have access to, and use of, the  
64 Connecticut on-line law enforcement communications teleprocessing  
65 system without charge.

66 (d) The chief executive officer of any institution listed in subsection  
67 (a) of this section which maintains a special police force may enter into  
68 an agreement with one or more of said other institutions which  
69 maintain a special police force to furnish or receive police assistance  
70 under the same conditions and terms specified in subsection (a) of  
71 section 7-277a.

72 (e) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 67, the Board of  
73 Regents for Higher Education shall determine (A) the preliminary  
74 requirements, including educational qualifications, for members of the  
75 special police forces for the state colleges, and (B) the timeline for  
76 filling any vacancies on any of such special police forces, including, but  
77 not limited to, when an examination for a vacant position shall occur  
78 and how soon after the examination is conducted shall an appointment  
79 to a vacant position be made or, in the event an examination for a  
80 vacant position is unnecessary due to a sufficient candidate list

81 provided in accordance with section 5-215a, when an appointment of a  
82 candidate from such candidate list shall be made.

83 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 67, the Board of  
84 Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall determine (A) the  
85 preliminary requirements, including educational qualifications, for  
86 members of the special police force for The University of Connecticut,  
87 and (B) the timeline for filling any vacancies on such police force,  
88 including, but not limited to, when an examination for a vacant  
89 position shall occur and how soon after the examination is conducted  
90 shall an appointment to a vacant position be made or, in the event an  
91 examination for a vacant position is unnecessary due to a sufficient  
92 candidate list provided in accordance with section 5-215a, when an  
93 appointment of a candidate from such candidate list shall be made.

94 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Board of Regents for Higher  
95 Education, in consultation with the Department of Emergency Services  
96 and Public Protection, shall evaluate the effectiveness of establishing a  
97 special police force for each regional community-technical college and  
98 replacing campus security personnel at each regional community-  
99 technical college with the special police force. Not later than January 1,  
100 2014, the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall  
101 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
102 statutes, on such evaluation to the joint standing committee of the  
103 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
104 education.

105 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall develop a  
106 coordinated security plan for the Connecticut State University System  
107 and the regional community-technical college system. Not later than  
108 January 1, 2014, the president of the Board of Regents for Higher  
109 Education shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
110 4a of the general statutes, on such plan to the joint standing committee  
111 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
112 higher education.

113 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any armed security personnel

114 of any public institution of higher education or armed member of a  
115 special police force established under section 10a-142 of the general  
116 statutes shall be certified under the provision of sections 7-294a to 7-  
117 294e, inclusive, of the general statutes.

118       Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than December 1, 2014, the  
119 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall conduct  
120 or contract with a third party to conduct a safety and security audit of  
121 every campus of the constituent units identified in subdivisions (1) to  
122 (4), inclusive, of section 10a-1 of the general statutes, to determine the  
123 safety and security characteristics of each campus and any building or  
124 structure located thereon. Such security audit shall be conducted in  
125 cooperation with the Board of Regents for Higher Education or, for a  
126 safety and security audit of any campus of The University of  
127 Connecticut, with the Board of Trustees of The University of  
128 Connecticut.

129       (b) Any recommendations for safety or security upgrades in any  
130 such safety and security audit shall be based on the audit's findings  
131 and, at a minimum, shall enable the constituent unit to successfully  
132 implement its security protocol plan developed in accordance with  
133 section 10a-156a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

134       (c) Not later than January 1, 2015, the department shall report on  
135 such audits to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
136 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education.

137       Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of two hundred thousand  
138 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Emergency Services and  
139 Public Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending  
140 June 30, 2014, for performing or contracting with a third party to  
141 perform safety and security audits of every campus of each constituent  
142 unit identified in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of section 10a-1 of  
143 the general statutes in accordance with section 5 of this act.

144       Sec. 7. Subsection (d) of section 10a-37 of the general statutes is  
145 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

146 *passage*):

147 (d) An ["independent college or university"] "independent  
148 institution of higher education": (1) Is a nonprofit institution  
149 established in this state; (2) has degree-granting authority in this state;  
150 (3) has its home campus located in this state; (4) is not included in the  
151 Connecticut system of public higher education; and (5) is an institution  
152 whose primary function is not the preparation of students for religious  
153 vocation;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-156a
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10a-142
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	10a-37(d)

**HED** Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** See Below

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Sections 1 – 5 and 7 of the bill conform to current law as amended by PA 13-3, An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety. There is no fiscal impact resulting from these provisions as they are current law.

The bill also appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in FY 14 for campus safety and security audits of every state institution of higher education.

**The Out Years**

There is no fiscal impact in the out years as the bill contains a one-time appropriation.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6655*****AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires public and independent institutions of higher education to develop security protocol plans, form campus threat assessment teams, and undergo safety audits. It also changes several aspects of the law regarding special police forces, including (1) civil service testing for UConn and state university police officers, (2) UConn and state university hiring authority, and (3) officer certification.

The bill (1) commissions a study of possible special police forces on regional community technical college (RCTC) campuses, and (2) requires a coordinated security plan between the RCTC and Connecticut State University Systems.

The bill also appropriates \$200,000 to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) for campus safety and security audits of every state institution of higher education.

It also makes a technical change, renaming an “independent college or university” as an “independent institution of higher education.” The bill fails to make conforming changes in other statutes where the term appears.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**SECURITY PROTOCOL PLANS**

The bill requires UConn and all its campuses, all state colleges in the Connecticut State University System (CSUS), all regional community-technical colleges, and all Connecticut independent institutions of



higher education to do the following:

1. by October 1, 2013, give an up-to-date security protocol plan to DESPP, which by law must outline how faculty and staff should identify and respond to students at risk for harm to self or others; and
2. by July 1, 2015, and every two years afterward, review and revise, as necessary, its security protocol plan with chiefs of police or campus security and submit revisions to DESPP by August 1 of the affected year.

The law required the institutions to submit an earlier version of the plan to the former Department of Higher Education by January 1, 2009.

#### **THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS**

The bill requires all of the above institutions to establish trained threat assessment teams on each campus by January 1, 2014. The institution president must choose team membership in consultation with the campus chief of police or head of security. Membership must include at least one member each from its special police force or campus security personnel, administration, faculty, and senior and mid-level staff. The chief of police or head of security for each campus must ensure that each member (1) is capable of executing the security protocol plan, and (2) receives training in identifying at-risk people and safety threats.

#### **CAMPUS SAFETY AND SECURITY AUDITS**

The bill requires DESPP, by December 1, 2014, to perform or require an audit of the following campuses to determine their safety and security characteristics: UConn and all its campuses, all state colleges in CSUS, all regional community-technical colleges, and the Board for State Academic Awards (which does not have a physical campus).

The bill requires DESPP to base any recommendations for campus security upgrades on the audit's findings and align them with the campus's security protocol plan. DESPP must do this in consultation

with UConn's Board of Trustees and Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR). DESPP must report the audit results to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2015.

## **SPECIAL POLICE FORCES**

### ***Civil Service Testing***

By law, UConn and all its campuses, as well as the four colleges in CSUS, are authorized to establish their own police forces, whose officers can be armed and have the authority to make arrests. These officers are state employees. The bill excludes these positions from certain aspects of the State Personnel Act that address civil service qualifying exams.

### ***UConn and CSUS Hiring Authority***

The bill gives the respective governing bodies for UConn and the CSUS the authority to determine:

1. the preliminary requirements, including educational qualifications, for members of the special police forces for UConn and the state colleges, respectively, and
2. the timeline for filling vacancies on the respective police forces, including when an exam for a vacant position will be offered and how soon after the exam an appointment to a vacant position can be made.

If an exam is unnecessary due to a sufficient candidate list the administrative services commissioner provides under state civil service law, then the governing body of UConn or CSUS must make an appointment from that candidate list.

### ***Certification Requirements for Armed Higher Education Security***

The bill requires all armed campus security personnel to be certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council (see BACKGROUND). Current law requires this for special police force officers on campuses.

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**REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROVISIONS*****Special Police Force Efficacy Study***

The bill requires the BOR, in consultation with DESPP, to evaluate whether the establishment of a special police force for each RCTC would be effective. By January 1, 2014, the BOR president must deliver the results to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

***Coordinated Security Plan***

The bill also requires BOR to develop a coordinated security plan for CSUS and the regional community-technical college system. By January 1, 2014, the BOR president must report on the plan to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

**BACKGROUND*****POST Authority and Regulations***

POST establishes minimum qualifications for municipal police officers and enforces professional standards for certifying and decertifying them. Its entry level requirements for police officers include personal interviews, fingerprint examinations, background investigations, psychological examinations, criminal history record checks, controlled substance screens, and physical fitness and medical tests (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 7-294e-16).

***Related Act***

PA 13-3 contains language identical to this bill, but does not contain the appropriation to DESPP for campus audits.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 1 (03/26/2013)